



Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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Monthly Report for August 2011

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Sandbar Monitoring Study

I am spent some of August working with Jason Alexander and Ron Zelt of USGS to develop a Nebraska Environmental Trust proposal to be submitted in September to extend the current pilot sand bar study. The project would be conducted over 3 years and would not include any new LPRCA funds at this time. Sandbar surveys—height/area etc—would be conducted in April, late June/July, and October to identify how sandbars may change through varying river conditions and over several seasons. In addition time lapse cameras at various points will be used to observe more frequent changes and correlate river stages to sandbar frequency and size. This proposal builds upon the current pilot study being funded by Lower Platte South NRD and will be an extremely valuable data set to be included within the Cumulative Impact Study as we continue to work towards establishing a better understanding of how land use changes may affect the river itself. The grant will be submitted on September 6, 2011 and we will hear from the NET about funding in February.

Water Quality Open

I spent a great deal of my time in August preparing for the Water Quality Open which was held on Thursday, September 1st at Quarry Oaks. Once again the event was “over full” with several teams on the waiting list. Neil Suess, President and CEO of the Loup Public Power District and Lisa Richardson of HDR provided the keynote presentation on the Loup Hydropower Facility relicensing process and its outcomes. The shot gun start of the golf tournament was at 12:30 p.m. The golfers interacted with representatives of USGS, UNO, the Tern & Plover Partnership, the Nebraska Land Trust, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the Groundwater Foundation, and the UNL Water Center. The day ended with awards and dinner at the club house. It was a hot day for a change but was a great event once again. Thanks to all the participants, the volunteers, presenters, sponsors, NEBCO and the staff at Quarry Oaks. We are already looking forward to next year.

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Meeting was held Tuesday, August 16th at 9:30 a.m. at LPSNRD in Lincoln. Business included the discussion of the sandbar study, a presentation by Tim Montgomery on the NGPC Trail viewer and Platte River Water Trail, a proposed partnership with CALMIT to identify septic tank discharge along the lower Platte as well as another grant partnership with NDEQ, NGPC, and LPNNRD for the removal of toxic algae at another lake at Fremont State Lakes. The business portion of the meeting was followed by a tour of the Antelope Valley Project in Lincoln.

Water Trail

The LPRCA is helping the NGPC in mapping, exploring funding and eventually development of educational material to formalize and/or expand the lower Platte River water trail. This is a great opportunity to continue our collaboration, expand opportunities to get stakeholders on the river and

increase visibility of the LPRCA. I spent a couple days on the water with NGPC and LPSNRD personnel mapping and exploring areas for either refurbished access areas or entirely new ones. I look forward to keeping up the great momentum on this effort in the months and years to come.

Assistant Secretary of the Army Visit

I also spent much of my month of August working with Jeff Greenwald (USACE) and the NRDs to plan a visit by Assistant Secretary of the Army JoEllen Darcy. The tour was originally planned for the end of August but due to the ASA's schedule it took place on the morning of September 2nd. We met the ASA, Col Ruch of the Omaha District, other USACE personnel and Representative Jeff Fortenberry at Two Rivers State Recreation Area. We spent some time there discussion the LPRCA and related efforts. We then took an airboat ride to Camp Ashland where we were met by Rep. Lee Terry, staff members from Sen. Johanns and Sen. Nelson's respective offices, Larry Vrtiska of the Army National Guard and a few others. Discussion there primarily focused on Wester Sarpy/Clear Creek. The airboat tour ended at Louisville later in the morning. While we only had a few hours with the ASA and congressional delegation we appreciated the opportunity to get them out on the ground and see all the tremendous resources and opportunities on the lower Platte.